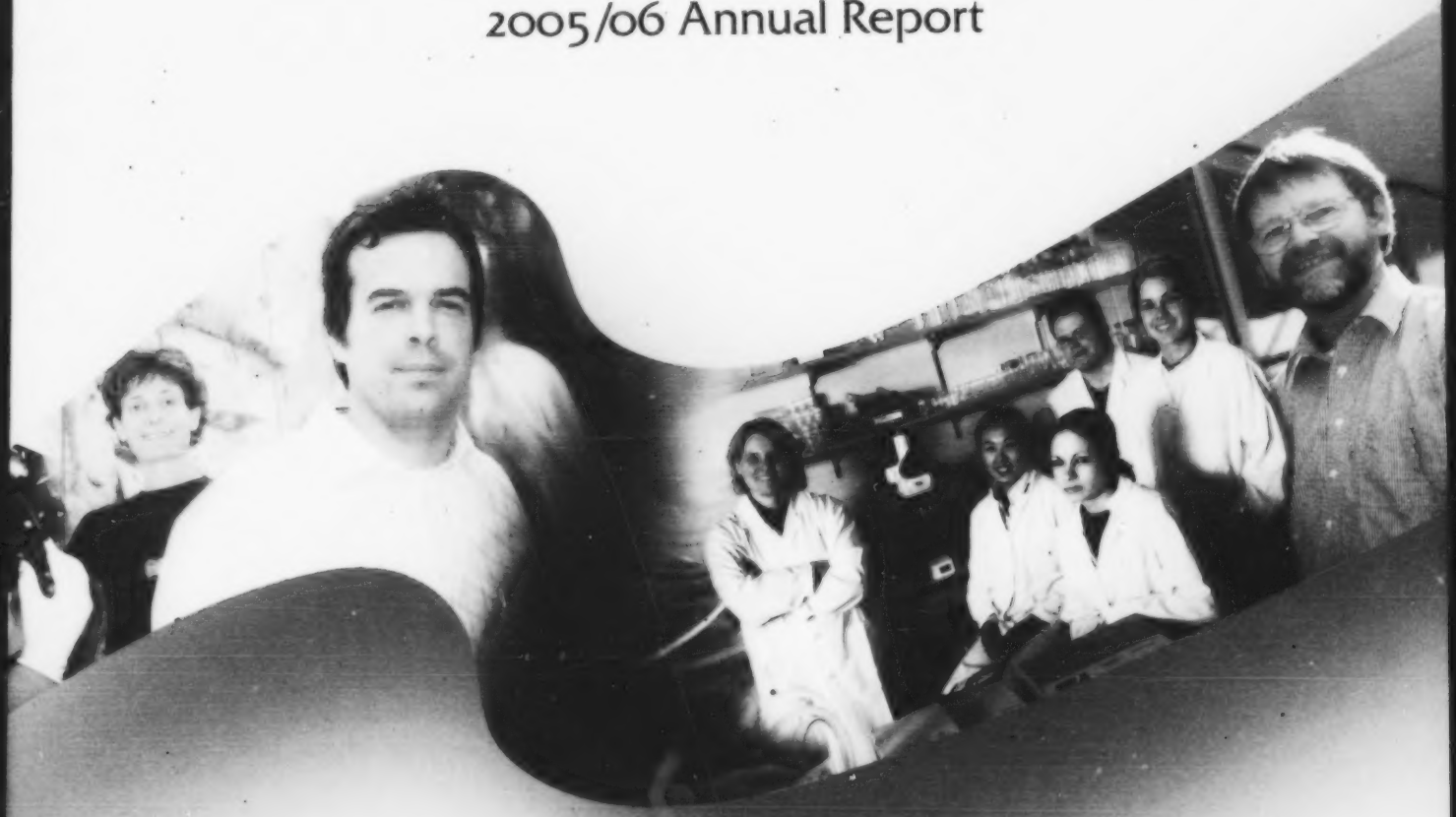
Building *Momentum*

2005/06 Annual Report



Saskatchewan
Health Research
FOUNDATION

Vision

Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research

Mission

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation contributes to a healthy province by funding and promoting excellence in health research; promoting the benefits of health research, and enhancing capacity, including securing funds to support excellent research and researchers.

Values

We believe health research ...

- is the ethical search for truth, knowledge, and understanding about human health;
- is an investment that leads to benefits for all Saskatchewan residents in many areas, including health, education and the economy;
- includes both basic and applied research; and
- encompasses many dimensions, including biomedical science, clinical investigation, health services and systems research, and research into the determinants of population health.

We are committed to good governance, including ...

- good stewardship for the resources entrusted to us; and
- the highest standards of public accountability.

We will maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, including ...

- integrity and honesty;
- respect for diverse perspectives and approaches; and
- clear, open, honest and timely communication.

We will work co-operatively and collaboratively with others to ...

- achieve mutual goals related to advancing health research in Saskatchewan; and
- ensure research findings are shared and used as widely as possible.

We strive for excellence and innovation in all our endeavours.

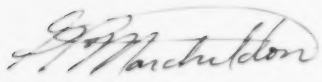
2007-00053

The Honourable Len Taylor
Minister of Health
Legislative Assembly
Regina SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to submit, for your consideration, the annual report of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for the fiscal period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory P. Marchildon, PhD

Chair

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Board Chair's Message *(outgoing)*

This year, my last as Chair of the Foundation, I am reflecting not only on the past year but also on my three years in this role. As the Foundation's inaugural Chair, I had the privilege of overseeing the growth of this new agency as it worked to strengthen Saskatchewan's health research enterprise and its links to health care and other benefits for the province.

Early on, our Board made governance a priority, taking time to reflect on the best approach for the Foundation. It took very seriously its responsibilities for managing public resources in the public interest and looked at roles, processes, and values such as ethics and respect for diversity. The result was a comprehensive governance and policy framework approved in early 2005, which now guides Board members' work with each other and with others. This past year was the framework's first full year of implementation and it has proven to be an effective model. It is available publicly, on our Web site, for those interested.

Another major initiative was our work on Saskatchewan's *Health Research Strategy*. We were very pleased to work with our provincial partners to hear about potential strategic directions for health research. This enabled us to offer very well-grounded advice on the matter to the Minister of Health, in response to his request. Identified as the catalyst for implementing the ten-year Strategy, the Foundation has naturally focused on activities that advance the plan. We started with the Health Research Summit in 2004, where we heard that a broad spectrum of leading thinkers in the province supported the new focus and directions. In 2005, we worked toward aligning our programs with these directions and dedicating resources to achieving that goal. We've also starting planning for several other early Strategy action items.

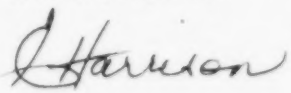
A third area I'd like to mention is the Foundation's work in encouraging and supporting collaborative research. As our university partners moved more towards group-based research models, it was important to consider the fit of our support mechanisms with these directions. The result was our new Research Group Development Program, which encourages the formation and growth of new research groups. In addition, a recently developed Health Research Teams Grant Program will provide major support for strong, productive teams working in a priority area and also addressing knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. Together, these two programs offer a 12-year continuum of competitive support for research groups.

As we've been building momentum for the *Health Research Strategy*, we continued our commitment to collaboration. Examples include our partnership with SEARCH Canada (Swift and Efficient Application of Research in Community Health) to offer a health-research training program for health system professionals. Another is our expansion of the health research co-ordinator model, working with the University of Regina. We're also exploring potential partnerships with various agencies in Saskatchewan for health research chairs that will build capacity in priority areas.

As I step down from the Chair and pass the torch to Gregory Marchildon, I feel very honoured to have had the opportunity to work with dedicated and talented individuals committed to establishing a nationally respected, high-quality health research organization in Saskatchewan.

During my tenure with the Foundation and my previous five years as Chair of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission, provincial and national commitments for health research funding have increased. I hope to see this positive trend continue. It is essential also that we continue to engage our communities in demonstrating the value of health research. I look forward to the day when health research is integrated into health funding as an essential service.

Liz Harrison, PhD, MSc, BPT



Chair

(to February 13, 2006)

Board of Directors

Liz Harrison, *Chair*
(until February 13, 2006) (4)

Greg Marchildon, *Chair*
(appointed February 14, 2006) (1)

John Biss
Saskatchewan Learning (5)

Allan Cahoon
University of Regina (4)

Neena Chappell
University of Victoria (4)

Louis Delbaere
University of Saskatchewan (5)

Gary Glavin
University of Manitoba (5)

John Gordon
University of Saskatchewan
(appointed February 14, 2006) (1)

Board Chair's Message *(incoming)*

In the short time since my mid-February appointment as Chair of the Foundation, I have discovered that my fellow board members and our staff are committed individuals who go to great lengths to ensure the Foundation fulfills its mandate and mission and adheres to its values. I have also learned that while there has been a great deal of progress on many fronts in the Foundation's first three years, there is still much to do and I welcome the challenge.

I look forward to working with our partners on strengthening Saskatchewan's health research enterprise and implementing the *Health Research Strategy*. I am committed to the Strategy, which was established after major consultations and truly reflects the province's health needs and aspirations. It will chart the course for health research in this province until 2014 and beyond. My sincere appreciation goes to Liz Harrison, the Foundation's first Chair, and her board colleagues for making the Strategy a reality and getting us to where we are today.

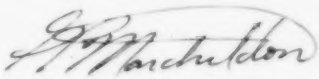
It is vital that the Foundation continue to collaborate with researchers, university and government leaders, health agencies and other stakeholders to build a strong and effective health research infrastructure in Saskatchewan – an infrastructure that can support leading-edge health research in areas where our researchers can build on their comparative advantages. Ensuring the Foundation is resourced sufficiently to do this work and implement the *Health Research Strategy* is a top priority for me.

I fully support the Foundation's goal of supporting a "balanced portfolio" of health research involving biomedical science, clinical research, health systems research, and research about determinants of population health. All of these areas can contribute to our understanding of key health issues and lead to health, social and economic benefits for our province.

During the year, the Foundation had some Board member changes that I would like to acknowledge. In addition to Liz Harrison leaving, Shauna Hudson, member since June 2004, and Hal Sanders, one of our original members, also left the Board. I want to thank all three for their service and commitment. John Gordon, Cory Neudorf and Debbie Wilkie joined the Board with me in February. We start this journey together, working on a Board recognized for its high standards and ability to convert vision into action.

It was a great honour to be invited to serve as Chair of this dynamic organization and I look forward to working with my colleagues, our staff and the Foundation's stakeholders to pursue health research issues and opportunities in the coming years. I have no doubt that the momentum built to date will continue as we strive to fulfill our vision of building a healthier Saskatchewan through health research.

Gregory P. Marchildon, PhD



Chair

(from February 14, 2006)

Mandate

As defined in ***The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act*** *(2002)*

1) Seek and receive funding from government and non-government sources for the advancement of research.

2) Encourage and facilitate research in health sciences, the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

3) Assist the Minister of Health to develop a provincial strategy for research into matters associated with the health sciences, the health-related social sciences and other health-related fields of study.

4) Provide funding to persons and agencies who are conducting or proposing to conduct research projects that are consistent with the provincial strategy.

5) Disseminate information to members of health-related professions and to the public respecting the objects of the Foundation, the research that the Foundation supports, the results of that research and conclusions drawn from that research.

Shauna Hudson
Sun Country Health Region (until September 2005) (0)

Murray Knuttila*, Vice-Chair*
Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region (4)

Cory Neudorf
Saskatoon Health Region (appointed February 14, 2006) (1)

Pauline Rousseau
Saskatchewan Health (5)

Hal Sanders*, Vice-Chair*
Saskatchewan Industry & Resources (until February 13, 2006) (4)

Debbie Wilkie
Saskatchewan Industry & Resources (appointed February 14, 2006) (1)

Tom Wishart
University of Saskatchewan (4)

** Figures in brackets indicate the number of meetings each SHRF board member attended in the 2005-2006 fiscal year*

CEO's Message

Throughout this report you will read about the Foundation's many accomplishments for 2005-06. It was definitely an action-packed year! Our small and committed staff of eight people worked at maximum capacity all year to tackle many early priority action items from the *Health Research Strategy*. We made headway in each of the major theme areas, as you will see in the Strategy section that follows. We are now poised to carry this momentum forward into 2006-07 with some intriguing projects and plans.

For that reason, I'd like to focus on the future here, starting with several projects that will take the Foundation out into the broader community early in the new fiscal year. We will be collecting baseline data to help evaluate progress and we'll also be discussing the future of two strategic areas with our community partners. First up is a public opinion survey to assess the Saskatchewan public's awareness of health research – both activities and benefits. Next will be two sets of focus-group consultations. One will gather views about research priorities related to rural and remote health services. The other will seek input about ways to build capacity related to sharing and using health research knowledge. Our Web site will carry information and progress news for all of these projects.

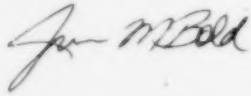
In the coming year, I am committed to advancing work started in 2005-06 on exploring partnership opportunities to create and support health research chairs that will advance priority health research areas. I am pleased to say that initial discussions have shown a great deal of promise. The interest lies in many quarters – universities, hospital foundations, health regions, and charitable health foundations. The Foundation is ready to play a catalytic role in co-ordinating the connections needed to create such partnerships. We also have the expertise and experience to provide the review necessary for selecting top-quality candidates. This fits well with our plan to fulfill our fund-development mandate by partnering, rather than direct fund raising, i.e., working with, rather than competing with, our partners.

A third priority I've identified for the coming year is to complete some administrative change processes started during 2005-06. First is the implementation of our new performance management system – Performance Planning for Results – developed with the assistance of an external expert. Second, we will be streamlining our records management system so that our paper and electronic systems are synchronized and have clearly defined retention schedules that align with freedom of information requirements. Third, we are considering a move to more electronic application and review processes for our funding programs and will be asking our research community its views about this before proceeding.

Despite this focus on the future, there is one look at the past that I must take here. This past February, our first Board Chair, Dr. Liz Harrison completed her three-year term with the Foundation. This followed her six years on the Board of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC), including five as Chair. During those nine years of service to building health research in Saskatchewan, Liz also chaired many peer review committees, including: Biomedical Establishment Grants, 1997-2000; Socio-health Grants and Awards, 2001–2003; Strategic Development Grants, 2001–2003; and HSURC's Research Funding Advisory Committee, 1997-2002. Throughout, she and I worked closely together and I developed the utmost admiration for her ability to chair effective committee meetings while also inviting and respecting a diversity of opinions. Liz continues her service to the Foundation by chairing our Advisory Committee on Knowledge Translation Capacity. On behalf of our staff, I would like to say "Thank You" to Liz for her collegial style and for her wise guidance over the years.

We move into 2006-07 with a new Board Chair, three other new members, and a strong core of continuing members. I look forward to our work together in continuing the momentum we've built in the Foundation's first three years and in focusing on our theme for next year, "Partnering for Action."

June M. Bold, MSc



Chief Executive Officer

Staff

June Bold
Chief Executive Officer

Alexa Briggs
Project Co-ordinator

Jason Disano
Research Analyst

Lori Ebbesen
Program and Evaluation Officer

Lynn Nastiuk
Administrative Assistant

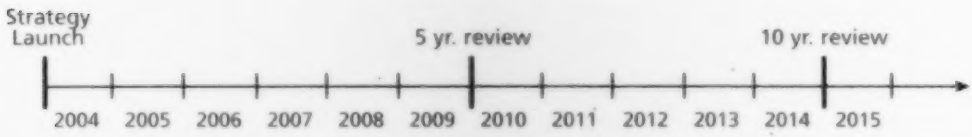
Sherry Wailing
Accountant

James Winkel
Communications Officer

Val Ziegler
Administrative Secretary

Saskatchewan's *Health Research Strategy*

The provincial *Health Research Strategy*, released by the Minister of Health in 2004, is an exciting vision for strengthening health research in Saskatchewan and ensuring that research leads to benefits for its citizens. The ambitious ten-year plan calls for staged implementation with short, medium and long-term priorities and major evaluations at five-year intervals.



The Strategy reflects the Foundation's input, gathered via roundtable consultations and background research.

The Strategy's actions are outlined in four major themes:

1. Establishing health research priority areas;
2. Applying what we learn;
3. Building health research capacity; and
4. Tracking progress and impact.

The health research priority areas reflect the province's demographic and geographic characteristics, the health status and health challenges of Saskatchewan residents, and existing areas of strength and comparative advantage.

The five priority areas are:

- health needs of specific populations, with emphasis on Aboriginal people and seniors;
- health systems and policy research, with emphasis on: health human resources; quality improvement; primary health care; mental health and addictions; innovative delivery models; and rural and remote health service delivery;
- determinants of health status, including early childhood development and the prevention and underlying causes of chronic and life style-related disease (particularly diabetes, obesity and smoking);
- public health, including infectious diseases, water safety and food safety; and
- synchrotron-based health research.

The Foundation is the lead agency in implementing the Strategy. Its success in this regard will depend on the collaboration and commitment of many individuals and organizations in the province. Our first step was holding a think-tank session, the Health Research Summit, where we heard strong support for the new directions and received input on early action priorities. For the results, please see the report, *From Vision to Action*, on our Web site.

Our focus in 2005-06 was on building momentum for the Strategy's early action items. The table on the following page provides action highlights and upcoming plans.

Four key accomplishments are featured below.

a) Starting with our spring 2005 competitions, we aligned our funding programs with the Strategy's priority areas and themes, dedicating resources to achieving that goal (for more information, please see Funding Programs section).

b) Another initiative focused on defining research needs with respect to rural and remote health services, an area our Board selected as an early priority. Working with an external consultant, we developed a discussion paper and will soon be holding roundtable discussions around the province. Findings will go to our Board in the fall to guide plans for enhancing this priority area.

c) In the "Applying What We Learn" theme, the main action is a collaborative project to develop a provincial framework for increasing knowledge translation capacity in the province. We recruited a project co-ordinator for this initiative, established an advisory committee to guide the project, and prepared a discussion paper. Focus groups are planned for spring 2006 and a culminating conference for early 2007. Please watch our Web site for developments.

d) Much was accomplished on the "Tracking Progress" theme, with the recruitment of a research analyst to lead this work in collaboration with other staff, and the resulting development of a draft evaluation framework that will be finalized shortly. Plans are well underway to collect baseline data needed to assess change and measure outcomes.

Key messages from strategy consultations:

- *Saskatchewan needs to focus its research resources and energies in areas critical to the health and well-being of its population.*
- *Saskatchewan also needs to build on its current health research strengths and its comparative advantages.*

Building Momentum: Progress and Future Plans

Strategic Directions	Looking Back at 2005-06... Action Highlights	Looking Ahead to 2006-07... Planned Actions
1 Advancing Saskatchewan's health research priority areas	Allocated competitive funding program resources to support priority areas Planned consultations to refine priorities for rural and remote health services research Offered two new grant programs focussed on priorities: Strategic Priorities and Strategic Rapid Response	Develop new programs to foster research in the priority areas, as resources permit Complete consultations about priorities for rural and remote health services research Plan consultations aimed at refining other research priority areas
2 Fostering the exchange and application of new health research knowledge	Supported research conferences and workshops focusing on exchanging research knowledge Implemented a partnership with SEARCH Canada to support health professionals in applied research training Launched new Web site to strengthen health research promotion and information sharing Planned a project to develop a framework for increasing knowledge translation capacity in Saskatchewan	Continue and enhance programs and events that encourage researchers and others to share and apply new knowledge Explore continuation and expansion of partnership with SEARCH Canada Report on health research activities, outcomes and benefits using various communications tools Carry out planned framework consultations for increasing knowledge translation capacity in Saskatchewan
3 Strengthening Saskatchewan's health research capacity	Continued funding support for new faculty, fellowships, new groups, and research centres Supported the Sask-CIHR Regional Partnership Program, aligned with the Strategy Expanded support for health research co-ordination roles at universities Sponsored first ever Health Research Week in Saskatchewan, including special events and awards recognizing excellence and achievement	Explore partnerships to support health research chairs in priority areas, as resources permit Continue support for the Sask-CIHR Regional Partnership Program Implement new Health Research Team Grant Program Continue Health Research Week and expand on scope and activities
4 Implementing the *Health Research Strategy* and tracking progress	Recruited a Research Analyst to lead evaluation and tracking initiatives Planned projects to advance several early Strategy action items - see above Began developing an evaluation model and framework, including targets and indicators Prepared a request to government for additional resources to implement the Strategy	Continue working with partners to advance the early-priority action items in the Strategy Complete the evaluation model and framework, with measures and methods Begin collecting baseline data (surveys, trend data, evaluation outcomes, etc.) Continue pursuing sufficient resources to implement the Strategy

Funding Programs

Our competitive funding programs are important tools for helping us fulfill various aspects of our mandate. Our programs have a developmental focus, purposefully aimed at building health research capacity and facilitating Saskatchewan researchers to be more competitive at the national level. We continue to encourage and support a broad range of human health research including basic biomedical science, clinical research, health services and system research and research into the cultural, social and environmental determinants of population health.

New in 2005-06, our programs evolved towards aligning funding decisions with the strategic priority areas outlined in the provincial *Health Research Strategy*. Our roster of programs became a blend of adapting ongoing programs to the Strategy and offering new initiatives aimed directly at the strategic areas. This year we announced new competitive program options for supporting highly productive, sustainable collectives of researchers through the Research Group Development Grants and the Health Research Team Grants; the latter will be launched in 2006-07.

We also hosted an orientation session in 2005 for new grant and award recipients and fellowship supervisors. The session gave us an opportunity to share information about our policies, network with others and respond to questions about managing one's grant.

In our long-standing Establishment Grants and Research Fellowship programs, funding preference was given to proposals in the priority research areas; 50% of the funds for each of these programs were earmarked for priority area research. Actual funds allocated to priority areas in both programs exceeded that level. New program offerings, the Strategic Priorities Grants and the Strategic Rapid Response Grants, focused on advancing priority area research exclusively.

In total, our Board approved over $2-million in research grants and fellowships in 2005-06. This section:

- provides an overview of all grants and awards approved (see Table 1);
- describes funding programs offered in this fiscal year; and
- lists recipients for each of the programs.

Further information about our programs, policies, eligibility criteria and submission requirements for all programs is available in our *SHRF Awards Guide*, published annually, and posted on our Web site. The Web site also carries competition results and details about each grant, including funding amounts and easy-reading project summaries.

Table 1: *Applications Received, Recommended and Approved 2005-06*

Grant Category	Received		Recommended		Approved	
	No.	$	No.	$	No.	$
New Investigator Establishment Grants						
Biomedical	17	1,299,073	11	867,911	**7**	**555,617**
Accompanying Equipment (Biomedical)	9	258,381	6	178,430	**4**	**101,000**
Subtotal		1,557,454		1,046,341		**656,617**
Socio-health	15	1,064,337	12	824,337	**6**	**436,630**
Accompanying Equipment (Socio-health)	4	102,909	3	89,352	**2**	**60,000**
Subtotal		1,167,246		913,689		**496,630**
Research Fellowships						
Postdoctoral	21	1,890,000	19	1,710,000	**8**	**720,000**
Clinical	0					
Subtotal		1,890,000		1,710,000		**720,000**
Research Group Development	9	450,000	4	200,000	**4**	**200,000**
Partnership	1	20,000	1	20,000	**1**	**20,000**
Strategic Priority	5	250,000	3	150,000	**3**	**150,000**
Research Connections			12	85,615	**12**	**52,600**
Total		**5,334,700**		**4,125,645**		**2,295,847**

New Investigator Establishment Grants

These grants facilitate university faculty who are new or newly resident to Saskatchewan in establishing independent health research programs within the province. They also assist researchers in achieving research productivity necessary for obtaining national-level funding.

Up to $40,000/year for 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

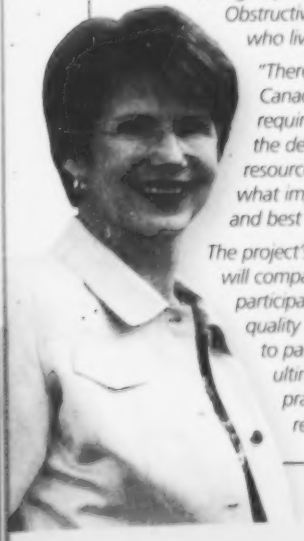
Studying the quality of end-of-life care

Donna Goodridge
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Even though the provision of quality end-of-life (EOL) care has been referred to as a person's right, this may not be the case for many Canadians. Recent research suggests that restricted access to specialized (palliative) care and types of diagnosis may dictate the quality of EOL care. Donna Goodridge applied through SHRF's New Investigator Establishment Grant program in 2005 hoping to find out more about this issue. Goodridge will spend the next two years examining the EOL care quality for two groups of individuals: those afflicted with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and patients who live in rural areas.

"There is a lack of research into EOL care in Canada despite the projected rise in people requiring EOL care. These factors will increase the demand for careful use of scarce health care resources," said Goodridge when asked about what impact this research will have on teaching and best practices.

The project's research, using personal interviews, will compare EOL care quality for the first group of participants to that of lung cancer patients. The quality of care of rural patients will be compared to patients living in urban areas. The project's ultimate goal is to put research outcomes into practice and improve EOL care for all patients regardless of their affliction or location.



New Investigator Equipment Grants

New Investigator Establishment Grant applicants may also apply for an accompanying grant to acquire one or more major pieces of equipment essential to their research and not currently available to them.

Up to $30,000 for up to 6 months

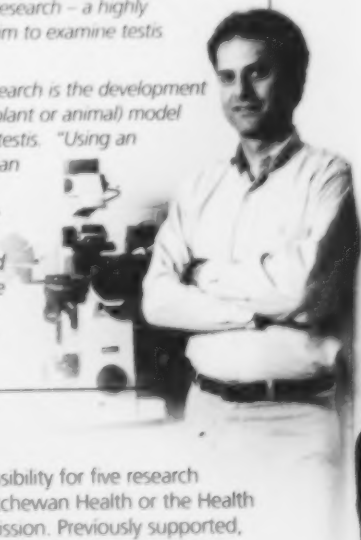
RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Creating a novel in-vivo model for human testis function

Ali Honaramooz, *Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan*

What causes male infertility? Dr. Ali Honaramooz wanted to find out some of the answers to this question in 2005 when he applied through SHRF's New Investigator Establishment Grant program. As part of the program Dr. Honaramooz was allowed to purchase equipment to help him conduct the research – a highly sensitive microscope that will allow him to examine testis tissue.

At the heart of Dr. Honaramooz's research is the development of an in-vivo (in the living body of a plant or animal) model for the function of the human testis. "Using an in-vivo model, equivalent to the human testis, will ultimately lead to finding the cause and prevention of life time consequences of infertility," said Honaramooz. The model will be used to conduct further research into male infertility, an abnormality of certain testicular factors or gene expression during development.



Research Centres

We continue to carry on funding responsibility for five research centres, transferred in 2005 from Saskatchewan Health or the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission. Previously supported, the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health, Inc. dissolved effective October 31st, 2005.

New Investigator Estabilshment Grants

Asterisk (*) indicates accompanying Equipment Grant

Biomedical

Daryl Fourney*
Division of Neurosurgery, Surgery, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Effects of intratumoral glutathione depletion and microbeam radiation on rat C6 and F98 gliomas

Ali Honaramooz*
Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
A novel in-vivo model for human testis function

Lisa Kalynchuk
Psychology, Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
Understanding individual differences in vulnerability to depression

Wolfgang Köster
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan
Components of Salmonella Type III secretion system encoded by SPI-2 and their role in infection

Qing Meng*
Pathology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Role of H_2S in atherosclerosis and thrombosis

Scott Murphy
Chemistry and Biochemistry, Science, University of Regina
Photoregulated and receptor-targeted liposomal drug delivery

Jian Yang*
Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan
Structural basis for the biodegradation of pentachlorophenol in Sphingobium chlorophenolicum

Socio-health

Donna Goodridge
Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
Quality of end-of-life care: The perspectives of bereaved family members of lung cancer and COPD patients, health care providers and policy makers in rural and urban areas

Nancy Gyurcsik*
Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
An innovative approach to promoting physical activity in first-year university students: Focus on barriers and coping self-efficacy

Robert Kell*
Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina
Influence of progressive exercise training on the quality of life of a chronic low back pain population

Jennifer Nicol
Educational Psychology and Special Education, Education, University of Saskatchewan
Solitary music listening as a social process for women living with chronic physical illness: A grounded theory study

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

These awards support high-quality candidates for a two-year period of postdoctoral research training in a health-related field under the supervision of an experienced, active researcher. The awards allow recipients to further develop research skills, equip themselves for a career in health research, and enhance the research productivity of the supervising faculty member.

Salary stipend, $40,000/year and research allowance, $5,000/year for up to 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Promoting seniors' adherence to physical activity and healthy eating

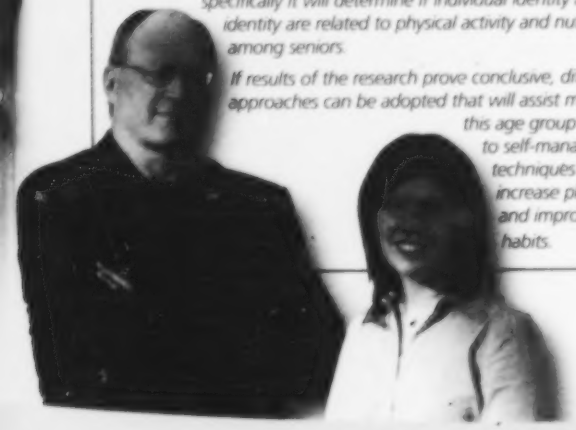
Shaelyn Strachan & Supervisor Kevin Spink
College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan

Physical inactivity and poor nutrition severely affect the health and well being of seniors. Individuals experiencing decreased levels of activity and poor nutrition are often faced with a decision to change their lifestyle.

In 2005 Shaelyn Strachan and her supervisor Kevin Spink applied to SHRF's Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program to see if it was possible to assist members of this population group to change their lifestyles. Strachan's research will use a group approach.

"This research will use group-based intervention strategies to promote the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating," says Strachan. This research project has two different objectives: to determine whether a person's identity is associated with health behaviours and whether social psychological factors strengthen health-related identity. More specifically it will determine if individual identity and group identity are related to physical activity and nutritional habits among seniors.

If results of the research prove conclusive, different approaches can be adopted that will assist members of this age group in adhering to self-management techniques that will increase physical activity and improve nutritional habits.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

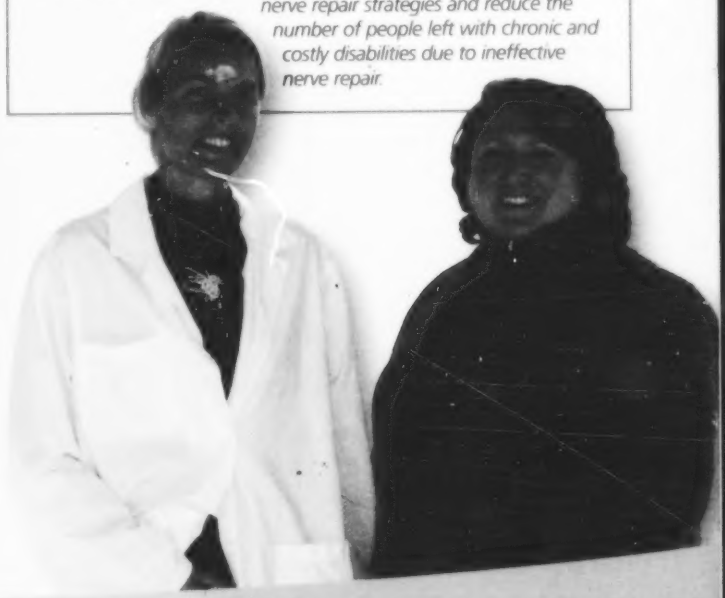
Studying the role of BDNF in improved nerve regeneration

Lina Pettersson & Supervisor Valerie Verge
College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Disabilities arising from damage to peripheral nerves pose tremendous challenges. These challenges become even greater among the elderly or those with diabetes. To improve the quality of life for such people nerve repair is essential; however, in order to repair itself the injured nerve cell must make specific proteins. One such protein is the brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). Research has shown that BDNF elevates in injured nerve cells when they are electrically stimulated at the time of surgical peripheral nerve repair. This strategy greatly improves the ability of the injured nerve cells to regenerate.

Lina Pettersson and her supervisor Valerie Verge are studying the role of BDNF through research funding obtained from SHRF's Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program. Their research project will assess whether BDNF is responsible for the improved regeneration observed with nerve stimulation and whether it instructs the injured nerve cell to regenerate more effectively.

Pettersson and Verge anticipate that their research could improve nerve repair strategies and reduce the number of people left with chronic and costly disabilities due to ineffective nerve repair.



John Reid*
Medicine, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Sleep disordered breathing and preeclampsia

Lewis Williams
Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Centre, Community Health and Epidemiology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Healthcare policies, knowledge systems and approaches to mental well-being in Saskatchewan: A Cree perspective

Research Fellowships

(supervisor's name in parentheses)

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Biomedical

Siguo Hao (J. Xiang)
Oncology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Adoptive T cell immunotherapy in treatment of cancer

Zhongjian Jiang (P. Yu)
Neuropsychiatry Research Unit, Psychiatry, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Involvement of semicarbazide-sensitive amino oxidase (SSAO) in beta amyloid deposition, inflammation and oxidative stress in a rabbit model for Alzheimer's disease

Maria Lujan (R. Pierson)
Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Three-dimensional (3D) ultrasonography and morphometry for the clinical evaluation of polycystic ovarian syndrome: Assessment of aberrant folliculogenesis and metabolic correlates

Igor Moshynskyy (A. Zakhartchouk)
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan
Studying the role of SARS coronavirus group-specific proteins in virus-host interactions

Lina Pettersson (V. Verge)
Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Role of BDNF in improved nerve regeneration induced by nerve stimulation

Marcelo Ratto (R. Pierson/L. Delbeere)
Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Characterization of an ovulation inducing factor in seminal plasma

Yanbo Zhang (X-M. Li)
Neuropsychiatry Research Unit, Psychiatry, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Effects of atypical antipsychotics on cuprizone-induced de- and remyelination in mice

Socio-health

Shaelyn Strachan (K. Spink)
Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
Harnessing the group to strengthen seniors' health self-identity and adherence to physical activity and healthy eating

Clinical Research Fellowships

This program supports those with professional health degrees interested in pursuing a career in both clinical service and research within their chosen profession. The awards allow recipients to undertake graduate research training during the fellowship and to advance their development as an independent clinical-researcher.

Salary stipend, $40,000 to $50,000/year and research allowance, $5,000/year for up to 2 years

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Promoting high quality health care workplaces: learning from Saskatchewan

Marlene Smadu
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Health care workers and researchers are always looking at ways to exchange knowledge and information regarding high quality health care workplaces in the province. The group that was interested in sharing this information consisted of more than 50 members from a number of different disciplines and professions that came to be known as the Knowledge Utilization Network (KUN). The KUN set out to ensure that knowledge created in this field is shared and used effectively in every-day work situations.

In order to achieve these objectives, the KUN applied for funding in 2005 through SHRF's Research Connections program to hold a two-day (December 6th & 7th) national conference in Regina. The conference was a success. Representatives from health-related agencies from across the country attended. The participants made suggestions as to how barriers to knowledge utilization may be overcome, how to enhance knowledge transfer and how to increase the awareness of high-quality workplaces that exist in Saskatchewan.

"We realize we all have the same issues and need to work together to make changes, as we have more power if we work together collectively," was one of the many positive comments from conference delegates. The College of Nursing plans to continue disseminating knowledge and information obtained from the conference by contacting delegates individually and posting further information on their Web site (www.usask.ca/nursing).

Research Connections Grants

This program promotes the advancement and exchange of new health research knowledge. It encourages linkages among multiple stakeholders and helps address health-related knowledge gaps in areas of particular importance to our province. This program provides matching funds for the support of health research conferences, workshops, research days and similar events that are organized and held in Saskatchewan.

Up to $10,000 per event

Research Group Development Grants **NEW**

Launched in September 2005, this program is an extension of our former Research Group Facilitation Grant program. Its purpose is to support the formation and early development of new health research groups and assist renewal groups (those previously funded through our Group Facilitation Grants) to evolve into sustainable research teams.

Up to $25,000/year matching funds for up to 2 years

Strategic Priorities Grants **NEW**

New this year, this program is intended to improve success rates in major national competitions for Saskatchewan-based researchers addressing priority areas of the *Health Research Strategy*.

The grants provide support for proposal development and, if successful nationally, for graduate student involvement in the resulting national project.

Up to $10,000 for up to 1 year for proposal development
Up to an additional $20,000/year for up to 2 years for graduate students

Strategic Rapid Response Grants **NEW**

This program is intended to support emergent and significant opportunities to strengthen and develop the priority areas in the *Health Research Strategy*. It provides a mechanism to respond rapidly to national opportunities requiring provincial partnering or matching funds. No grants were approved in the program this year.

Partnership Grant

Donna Goodridge
Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
Quality of end-of-life care: The perspectives of bereaved family members of lung cancer and COPD patients, health care providers and policy makers in rural and urban areas
(Also supported by the Nursing Care Partnership, Canadian Nurses Foundation)

Research Connections

9th Biennial Custody and Caring International Conference on the Nurses' Role in the Criminal Justice System
Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Arlene Kent-Wilkinson**

Canadian Nurses' Association 2006 Biennial Convention and Annual Meeting
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association
Key contact: **Susan Smith Brazill**

Improving Human Health: Are Plant Foods a Key to Preventing Chronic Disease?
Ag-West Bio Inc., Saskatoon
Key contact: **Carol Ann Patterson**

Life Sciences and Health Sciences Research Conference
Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contacts: **Bernadine Rudichuk, Chantelle Sephton and Ben Willing**

Locating Risk, Defining Prevention: A Researcher Workshop
Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, Women's and Gender Studies, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Caroline Tait**

Molecular Form and Function: Probing Intact Tissues using Synchrotron Light
Geological Sciences, Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Ingrid Pickering**

Promoting High Quality Health Care Workplaces: Learning from Saskatchewan
Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Marlene Smadu**

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Immunology and Infectious Diseases Research Group (IIDRG)

Peter Bretscher and John Gordon (co-leaders)
Colleges of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

This collaborative-minded group of individuals wants to learn more about specific themes such as the treatment and prevention of allergic disease, immunotherapy for tumours and the prevention and treatment of autoimmune disorders such as diabetes. The IIDRG was initially created in 2003-2004 under SHRF's Research Group Facilitation Grant program, but changed its name to better represent the interests of all members and align itself with the university's renewed commitment to infectious disease research. The IIDRG applied to SHRF's Research Group Development Grant program in 2005 for renewal to continue its collaborative approach toward researching immunology.

Since the group first applied to SHRF in 2003-2004, it has made tremendous progress in advancing immunological research at the University of Saskatchewan. The IIDRG has co-sponsored visiting speakers from across Canada and abroad, led evening discussion groups for researchers to exchange knowledge, created its own Web site (www.usask.ca/immunology), fostered inter-university exchange visits and created a journal club to act as a venue to discuss recent advances and findings in immunology.

The IIDRG's work has also contributed to the development of a spin-off company called IL Therapeautics, which markets a new anti-inflammatory drug. The group will continue to pursue other opportunities and contribute building health research capacity in Saskatchewan.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

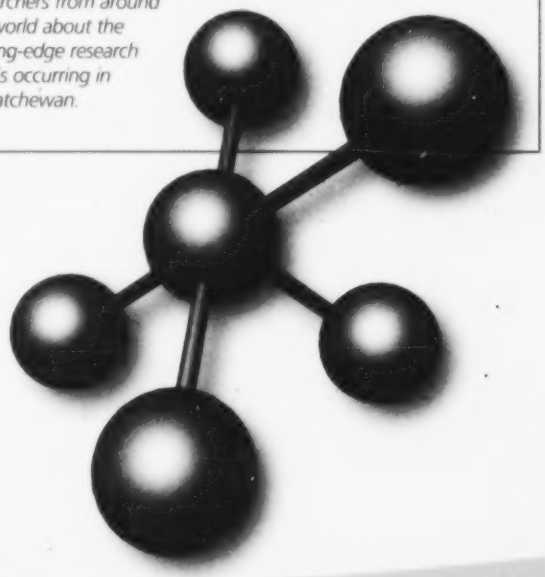
Using the Synchrotron to investigate metals in living systems

Graham George, *College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan*

Understanding the chemical nature of metals in living organisms requires the right tools and equipment. The Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan is one of those tools that will assist Graham George and his research team in finding out more about metals in living systems. George and co-applicants Ingrid Pickering, Helen Nichol and Dean Chapman applied to SHRF's Strategic Priorities Grant program in 2005 to assist them in obtaining the use of two beamlines at the CLS Synchrotron that will allow them to use X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS).

XAS is a special type of X-ray system that is tailored toward medical and biological research. The two beamlines will allow George and his team to divide the research project into two major categories: metals in intact tissues and metals in biological molecules. The research results will be very unique and of international calibre. Use of the XAS technique will further our understanding of metal-based drugs, the metabolism of toxic metals and the benefits of non-toxic metals.

George and his team anticipate that their research will not only better our understanding of metals in living systems, but also inform other health researchers from around the world about the leading-edge research that is occurring in Saskatchewan.



Partnership Grants

Partnership grant opportunities arise when SHRF collaborates with other funding agencies to support research that meets both SHRF's and the other agency's priorities. This year, we became a partner in the Nursing Care Partnership (NCP), a research initiative managed by the Canadian Nurses Foundation and funded by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. Its purpose is to increase the pool of funds available for research on nursing care issues and to build nursing research capacity. With NCP, we supported the work of the New Investigator Establishment Grant holder, Dr. Donna Goodridge, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan. The resulting 'Partnership Grant' allowed Dr. Goodridge to focus more on capacity-building activities.

Putting Theory into Practice: Transferring Creativity into Community Wisdom
Graduate Studies and Research, University of Regina
Key contact: **Greg Krätzig and David Malloy**

Summer School 2005: Mental Health Promotion, Identity and Culture
Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Centre, Community Health and Epidemiology, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Lewis Williams**

Synchrotron Approaches to Cancer Research
Surgery, Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Robert Griebel**

The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science 2006
Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
Key contact: **Gordon Binsted**

The Score: A Public Forum on Health Research
Genome Prairie, Saskatoon
Key contact: **Lisa Jategaonkar**

Strategic Priority Grants

Sandra Bassendowski
Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
Building capacity with Aboriginal community-based health research: A partnership with Regina Métis Sports and Culture Inc.

Graham George
Geological Sciences, Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
BioXAS: Life science synchrotron beamlines for x-ray absorption spectroscopy for the Canadian Light Source

Daniel Chen
Mechanical Engineering, Engineering, University of Saskatchewan
Development of advanced technologies for producing scaffold-guided tissues

Peer Review

Selection Processes

Our funding selection processes are founded on peer review, where panels of active researchers both internal and external to our province assess research proposals using excellence, relevance and feasibility as key deciding factors. Applications must also exemplify the stated objectives and priorities for the particular funding program (as described in our *Awards Guide*). New this year, following scientific review, applications were also reviewed on whether or not they addressed the priority areas of the *Health Research Strategy,* consistant with our efforts to support priority area research. Our granting process has multiple steps, as follows:

Steps

Our review committee chairs and members are primarily selected and recruited from Saskatchewan's health research and service communities. For each of our committees we seek representation from across universities and a variety of disciplines. We also call on reviewers from outside the province for certain programs, in particular for research groups. Our peer reviewers are instrumental in evaluating applications. They also provide valuable feedback to us about procedures, programs and trends in the health research community. Peer review committee members for 2005-06 are listed in this section.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated review committee chairs and members who so generously provide their expertise on a volunteer basis for up to three-year terms. These dedicated individuals contribute to the collective wisdom that is critical to the quality and integrity of our selection processes.

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Steps

1	SHRF invites reviewers to serve on committees
2	Applicants submit proposals to SHRF
3	SHRF staff screen applications for completeness and eligibility
4	Committee chair, with SHRF staff, assigns applications to reviewers
5	Orientation for reviewers, as required
6	SHRF staff recruit external, out-of-province reviewers, as required
7	Reviewers prepare in-depth written assessments using forms provided
8	Committee meets to discuss and rate all applications
9	Committee recommends the top applications for funding to the SHRF Board
10	SHRF Board approves as many grants as available funds allow
11	SHRF informs applicants of the funding decisions in writing
12	SHRF hosts an orientation session for new grant and award recipients
13	SHRF staff ensures all conditions are met, including ethics review
14	SHRF office releases funding to researchers' home institution
15	Researchers carry out their studies
16	SHRF monitors progress and outcomes of the grants and awards

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Note: Figures in parentheses indicate number of years served, including current competition.

Biomedical Establishment Grant Review Committee

John Gordon (Chair) (2)
Veterinary Microbiology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Peter Bretscher (3)
Microbiology and Immunology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Ron Geyer (1)
Biochemistry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Rod Kelln (2)
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
University of Regina

Jeremy Lee (2)
Biochemistry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Darrell Mousseau (1)
Psychiatry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Helen Nichol (2)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Phyllis Paterson (3)
Nutrition and Dietetics
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
University of Saskatchewan

Sylvia van den Hurk (2)
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
University of Saskatchewan

Socio-health Grants and Awards Review Committee

Bonnie Jeffery (Chair) (2)
Faculty of Social Work
University of Regina

Jay Biem (3)
Medicine
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Ken Craig (2)
Psychology Department
Faculty of Arts
University of British Columbia

Sheila Evans (3)
Faculty of Nursing
University of Calgary

Mary Hampton (1)
Psychology
Luther College
University of Regina

Kent Kowalski (1)
Kinesiology
University of Saskatchewan

Suzanne Sheppard (3)
Physical Therapy
Royal University Hospital
Saskatoon Health Region

Biomedical Personnel Awards Review Committee

Louis Delbaere (Chair) (2)
Biochemistry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Michael Corcoran (1)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Thomas Fisher (1)
Physiology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Marianna Foldvari (2)
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
University of Saskatchewan

Andrew Freywald (1)
Chemistry and Biochemistry
Faculty of Science
University of Regina

Scott Napper (1)
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
University of Saskatchewan

Lydden Polley (2)
Veterinary Microbiology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Janette van den Berghe (2)
Pediatrics
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Valerie Verge (3)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Research Group Development Grant Review Committee

Tom Wishart (Chair) (3)
College of Graduate Studies and Research
University of Saskatchewan

Leon Browder (3)
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Faculty of Medicine
University of Calgary

Andrew Demchuk (2)
Clinical Neurosciences
Faculty of Medicine
University of Calgary

Gordon Glazner (3)
Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Unit
St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg

Patricia Martens (1)
Community Health Sciences
Faculty of Medicine
University of Manitoba

Strategic Priorities Grant Review Committee

Gary Glavin (Chair) (1)
Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Community Health Sciences
Faculty of Medicine
University of Manitoba

Angela Busch (1)
Physical Therapy
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Dean Chapman (1)
Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Thomas Chase (1)
Faculty of Arts
University of Regina

Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program

The Sask - CIHR Regional Partnership Program (RPP) continues to have a strong impact in our province. The goal of this federal program is to increase federal health research funding in provinces where levels are low relative to other areas in the country. It encourages strategic use of the funds to build health research capacity and sustainability.

Saskatchewan became a major participant in 1999, when our provincial government signed a five-year agreement with CIHR that secured provincial matching funds. This meant that "the match" would be available for Saskatchewan researchers who achieved very good scores that were just below CIHR's very high funding cut-offs. Saskatchewan was the only province to take this approach and it was a key factor in the program's smooth operation in Saskatchewan. The program's existence also encouraged more researchers to apply to CIHR since there was an increased chance of success.

From 1999-00 to 2005-06, CIHR funds to Saskatchewan researchers increased by almost four times – going from $2.8-million to $10.7-million and from 0.9% of CIHR's budget to 1.4%. During the same period, CIHR's budget also increased, but at a lower rate – about two and a half times. This means the province gained real ground during that period. Saskatchewan's goal is to achieve 3% of CIHR's budget.

CIHR has extended the RPP twice since 1999, first through to 2005-06 and recently through to 2007-08. SHRF has decided to continue support for the program for that period, committing $700,000/year to the $1-million annual matching pool. Other provincial contributors include Saskatchewan Learning, committing $250,000/year from the Innovation and Science Fund, and the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina, contributing variable amounts to match student awards. SHRF manages and disburses most of the provincial matching funds on advice from a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

Table 2 shows the number and value of new RPP grants and awards approved in Saskatchewan in 2005-06 – totaling $2.4-million. Just over half, 56%, of the funding went to operating grants; the other 44% went to personnel awards, including faculty salary awards, postdoctoral fellowships, and doctoral awards.

Table 2: *Summary of Grants and Awards Approved in 2005-06 * Saskatchewan - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program (RPP)*

Type	Term	Number Approved	Approved Funding ($) **
Faculty Salary Awards	5 years	2	**550,000 (24%)**
Postdoctoral Fellowships	1 – 3 years	3	**290,000 (12%)**
Doctoral Fellowships	1 – 3 years	4	**176,000 (8%)**
Operating Grants	2 years	7	**1,319,542 (56%)**
Equipment Grants		0	—
TOTALS	—	**16**	**2,335,542 (100%)**

* *A list of approved grants and awards is available upon request.*

** *Approved amounts include both the CIHR and provincial commitments, matched 1:1. These amounts are as originally approved and do not reflect subsequent adjustments due to changes such as early terminations.*

A 2002 Saskatchewan evaluation of the RPP showed an increase in the level of CIHR-funded research activity in the province, among both new researchers and more established researchers, as well as an increase in student training and in high-quality jobs. CIHR undertook a program-wide evaluation early in 2005. Preliminary results point to the program's effectiveness in increasing health research funding, activity and productivity in the targeted provinces. Most RPP-funded researchers were also successful in securing subsequent CIHR grants.

The evidence suggests that the RPP should be continued, since it is an effective mechanism for supporting health research more evenly across the country. Increasing the funding level is another consideration since the program's budget relative to CIHR's overall budget has eroded over time. CIHR has invited representatives from RPP advisory committees across the country to meet with them to contemplate the future design of this effective partnership program.

Health Research Co-ordination

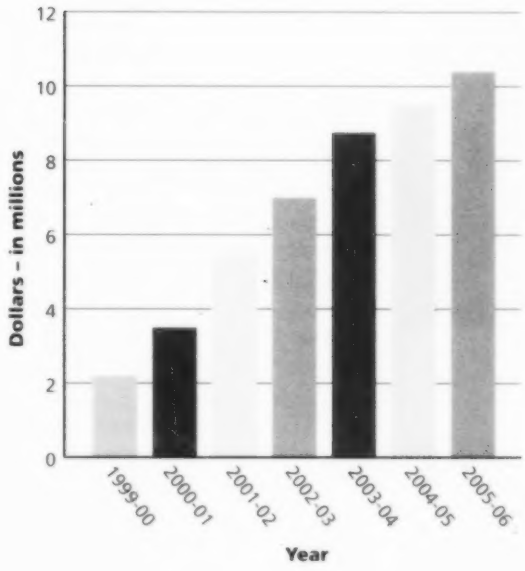
Another partnership started in 1999 has been highly productive. SHRF and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have collaborated to support the office of the University Co-ordinator of Health Research, housed in the Office of the Vice-President (Research). The original five-year agreement expired in June 2005 and was extended for another three years. SHRF provides $100,000/year and the U of S provides $50,000/year and in-kind support to this partnership.

Dr. Bruce Waygood, in the position since July 2000, works with a broad range of health researchers to increase the number and quality of Saskatchewan applications to CIHR. The role is multi-faceted, from encouraging more national grant applications, to bringing together potential collaborators, to developing an internal pre-review system.

This partnership and the Sask-CIHR RPP (described earlier) create a very productive synergy for health research in Saskatchewan. They contribute to a substantial increase in CIHR funding in the province, as shown in Figure 1.

During 2005, SHRF entered into a similar agreement with the University of Regina, contributing $35,000 for a 25% time Health Research Leader function and a 50% time supporting administrative position. The University's contributions include additional salary and in-kind support. Dr. David Gauthier, the new Associate Vice-President (Research), has taken on this leadership role, along with other duties, starting in early 2006.

Figure 1: *Increase in CIHR Dollars to Saskatchewan*



SHRF's agreements with both universities call for a Health Research Liaison Committee including both positions and representatives from SHRF and major health regions. Establishing this committee is a priority for the new fiscal year.

Health Research on the Front-Line

SEARCH is a partnership program started by the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) that trains health professionals in doing applied health research and using research evidence in making health services decisions. SEARCH stands for Swift Efficient Application of Research in Community Health. The program is now operated by SEARCH Canada, based in Edmonton.

Saskatchewan first participated in SEARCH in 2003, under the auspices of the Health Quality Council. As of 2005, SHRF continued the commitment – a good fit with the strategic theme "Applying What We Learn" in the *Health Research Strategy*.

The program operates on a two-year intake cycle and SHRF funded two participants in 2005 who

Karen Earnshaw

Penny Froh

were selected in a competitive process. Karen Earnshaw from Indian Head Union Hospital and Penny Froh from Rural Health Services for Rosthern-Wakaw. They started their training in Alberta in May 2005 and have now completed five of seven one-week modules. They will also do two research projects, one of which must be of direct interest to their employing health regions. SHRF's commitment includes a grant for the required information technology and payment of participants' expenses to attend the training modules. We also support the participation of one Saskatchewan faculty member, Glenn Donnelly, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, based in Regina.

Earnshaw's individual research project involves an analysis of the potential for partnerships between Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Registered Nurses (RN) in rural hospitals.

"I wanted to look closely at these two health service providers in rural Saskatchewan and find out if there was any way to bring certain skill sets from both professions together," said Earnshaw. "The opportunity for individuals from both professions to bounce ideas off of one another will surely lead to a stronger working environment and provide opportunities for front-line workers to improve their skills." Earnshaw says her SEARCH experience has been very positive; the only significant challenge is finding enough time to finish the course work.

Froh also enjoyed her first year in SEARCH, finding the required desktop software particularly useful.

"The web-based software that SEARCH provides allows us, as researchers, to talk over the Internet and share documents, project information and meeting minutes at least once a week. It is very easy to use and very inexpensive."

Froh's research project explores best practices in mental health promotion. Froh was able to locate numerous published articles on mental health promotion from around the globe. Her finished report, a compilation of best practices on the subject, will now be added to the list of available literature. She hopes such articles can be used as a reference tool for rural health region practitioners who are looking for some sort of guidance on this important issue.

We look forward to hearing more about Earnshaw and Froh as they work through their second and final year in SEARCH.

The employing health authorities' commitment is critical to the success of the program, as they need to allocate time for the participants' training and research projects. Each participant's supervisor also attends two orientation meetings, helping to create a supportive environment for participants in applying the new knowledge gained in the training and from their research.

In a meeting we held with stakeholders in early 2005, there was a very high degree of interest in continuing – and expanding – SEARCH in Saskatchewan in the future. SEARCH Canada is considering various partnership approaches and ways to grow the opportunity outside Alberta. SHRF is in discussions with them about continuing this valuable partnership.

Measuring Success

Evaluating our funding programs is critical to answering questions about the extent to which our program goals are achieved and about our contributions (short- and long-term) to strengthening health research in Saskatchewan. Our evaluations are designed to ensure accountability for our program priorities and research funding decisions, to inform our strategic planning, and to contribute to knowledge about assessing the value and multiple impacts of research funding. We are developing a conceptual framework based on the Buxton-Hanney Payback Model (Buxton & Hanney, 1996), a well-recognized theoretical basis for measuring research 'payback' and impacts like knowledge production, research capacity, policy and product development, health benefits and wider economic benefits. The framework will guide our evaluation of the provincial *Health Research Strategy*, our funding programs and related activities. We use various quantitative and qualitative methods to collect information, starting at the application process to five years following implementation of the grant.

Activity

In our analyses of application trends since 1996, we found that SHRF's programs have had sustained or increased interest over time. In particular, our core programs, the Postdoctoral Fellowship and Establishment Grant Programs, consistently attracted a strong number of applications. In 2005-06 we received a record high 32 Establishment Grant applications.

Outcomes

Outcome data are extracted from progress and final reports required from all grant and award holders and gathered in our five-year follow-up with previous recipients. We find that almost 3/4 of SHRF-funded research fellows complete their two-year term and almost all accomplish a first-author peer-reviewed publication. Similarly, a vast majority of Establishment Grant holders complete their grants and disseminate findings through scholarly publications and presentations locally, nationally and/or internationally. Funded research has: facilitated training of graduate students and health practitioners; employed other researchers, technicians and support staff; and contributed to the creation of new research collaborations. Five years later, our recipients from 2000-01 indicate that the SHRF funding to launch their research careers was instrumental in developing a track record. Three-quarters of those recipients remain in the province and a conservative estimate of additional grant dollars to the original grant is 4:1.

Impact

Our funding programs have numerous positive effects on researchers' careers and on the research environment. Fellows and supervisors alike credit the research fellowships with high or medium importance:

- "The fellowship program is a very critical component of research funding for young people to establish themselves and focus their career."
- "Through the fellowship, this fellow developed critical thinking, research organization and communication abilities."
- "I learned the importance of ensuring all postdoctoral fellows embrace a team environment."
- "This fellow helped me keep abreast of current scientific literature that forms a background for my teaching expertise."
- "The fellow has inspired a new research direction."

Consistent with their main aim, New Investigator Establishment Grants are rated as important for establishing research careers and fostering subsequent programs of research: "My Establishment Grant coincided with a lot of learning on my part. It was critical to the establishment of a research lab, for the career of students and technicians, and for the foundation of continuing my research." Other benefits reported include:

- new skills, "The process of completing the application was certainly a good practice, whether I got the money or not. It was helpful because it involved interaction with other people in the community;"
- the injection of new knowledge into teaching, "I mentioned my research in graduate and undergraduate classes, relating some of the concepts to my work as the example;"
- economic benefits, "There is a trickle-down effect of the grant in terms of employing students and technicians;"
- research directions, "My work led to a larger scale project with others, building on the ideas;"
- connections and dissemination "My basic research is of interest to clinicians and this has been beneficial to patients;"
- advancements in policy development; and
- the creation of new networks among researchers.

In working towards our mandate to ensure that research leads to benefits for the people of Saskatchewan, we continue to work with our partners, provincially and nationally, who share our interest in exploring and understanding the value of and multiple benefits derived from investing in health research.

" My Establishment Grant coincided with a lot of learning on my part. It was critical to the establishment of a research lab, for the career of students and technicians, and for the foundation of continuing my research."

IMPACT STORY

Researcher sheds new light on chemotherapy treatment

Tanya Dahms

Chemistry and Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Regina

"The grant provided me with an opportunity to sift through very complex and convoluted literature in the area of enzyme mechanism and gave me the chance to publish a paper on the topic in Biochemistry, a prestigious, peer-reviewed journal."

– Dr. Tanya Dahms

Historically people afflicted with different types of cancer are led to believe that chemotherapeutic treatment is the best way to treat the disease. For many, this type of treatment is very unpleasant since the side effects of chemotherapy can be extreme.

In 2000, Dr. Tanya Dahms, a professor and researcher at the University of Regina, applied to the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC), SHRF's predecessor, to explore opportunities that may improve chemotherapy treatment. Now, five years later, Dr. Dahms believes that her research has had an impact on cancer research. Through her research grant Dr. Dahms was able to develop a model that illustrated it is not just the cancer-treating drug, but the way the drug interacts with particular enzymes in the human body, that produces debilitating side effects.

Her research holds potential for improving the health and well-being of those undergoing chemotherapy.

During the past five years Dr. Dahms' research has had an impact on:

research...

"The grant provided me with an opportunity to sift through very complex and convoluted literature in the area of enzyme mechanism and gave me the chance to publish a paper on the topic in Biochemistry, a prestigious, peer-reviewed journal."

practice...

More particularly, it has made a great contribution to the area of enzyme mechanisms as they relate to certain types of cancer-treating drugs.

teaching and capacity building...

Dr. Dahms' teaching has extended far beyond the classroom, which has led to collaborative research efforts with other researchers, institutions and health research funding agencies.

IMPACT STORY

Protein specific biosensors

Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz

Chemistry, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

Determining the role and quantity of specific biomolecules or toxins can be a very expensive and massive undertaking. Traditionally chromatographic methods have been the only means to determine these biomolecules at low concentrations. Dr. Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz took a different approach to this subject five years ago when he applied to SHRF's predecessor, the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC), for funding to study protein-specific biosensors. Dr. Kraatz's research entailed several studies that helped him better understand how the biosensors work and could be used in determining the quantity of specific toxins in blood or urine samples. More particularly, Dr. Kraatz developed a fully functional and reusable electrochemical biosensor for the non-destructive detection of a key enzyme of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Since that time, Dr. Kraatz's research has led to collaborations with other agencies:

"The basic technology was funded through HSURC and then the subsequent funding allowed us to develop the research further until it caught the attention of industry and government agencies who we're working with now."

While Kraatz's research focused on the detection of a single protein, the system is very adaptable, making it extremely versatile and cost effective for future use.

During the past five years Dr. Kraatz's research has made an impact on:

research techniques...

There has been significant interest from industry and government agencies in the biosensing techniques developed from the initial grant.

the economy...

There has been significant economic impact arising from the original HSURC grant: the employment of three students, 15 people employed through Dr. Kraatz's research team, the creation of a university-based company and the signing of a contract for further research for the Department of National Defense.

teaching...

Dr. Kraatz's research has proven to be a valuable teaching resource. His project has generated interest in his lectures in the classroom and has led to summer employment for many students who gain valuable work experience and expertise from senior researchers.

"The basic technology was funded through HSURC and then the subsequent funding allowed us to develop the research further until it caught the attention of industry and government agencies who we're working with now."

– Dr. Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz

Showcasing Health Research

Showcasing our funded researchers and other work was a priority throughout 2005-2006. A wide range of communications activities gave our researchers some well-deserved exposure and let others know about the quality of research that is occurring in this province.

In April 2005, we launched our new Web site, designed to be more interactive and user-friendly. The site contains a number of new features, including a polling function, e-mail newsletter distribution capability, a searchable database of funded researchers, and randomly occurring professional photographs of our researchers. Clicking on these photographs takes the user to details about each project including easy-to-read research summaries.

Another major activity was partnering with the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) to showcase health research in *Health Matters* magazine. Articles featured the work of: Debra Morgan's Research Team, which is looking at ways to improve the care of persons with dementia in rural and remote areas; Janet Smylie's research project that is investigating how to measure infant health using oral history; and Karen Chad's research group, which is studying different ways to tackle obesity.

A third major promotional activity was the unveiling of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Achievement Awards. The awards recognized individual health researchers who made lifetime contributions to biomedical, clinical or socio-health research, as well as to teaching and service. The 2005 SHRF Achievement Award Winners were Lorne Babiuk – Biomedical, Jay Kalra – Clinical, and Jim Dosman – Socio-health.

SHRF also showcased exceptional researchers in the early stages of their careers, recognizing those who earned top marks in the New Investigator Establishment Grant and Postdoctoral Research Fellowship competitions. SHRF's 2005 Top Researcher awards were given to Ali Honaramooz (Biomedical) and Donna Goodridge (Socio-health) in the New Investigator Establishment Grant Program. Shaelyn Strachan (Socio-health) and Lina Pettersson (Biomedical) scored the highest in the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship competition. Their research is featured in the Research Spotlights in the Funding Programs section of this report.

These awards were handed out at our annual awards dinner – Santé! A toast to Saskatchewan health research success – December 1st in Saskatoon. The event was held in conjunction with the first-ever *Health Research Week* in Saskatchewan. At SHRF's request, the Minister of Health declared November 27 – December 3, 2005 as *Health Research Week* creating an opportunity for SHRF and others to celebrate and promote health research contributions and achievements in the province. Other activities included public lectures at the University of Saskatchewan, a two-page advertisement in the province's two major daily newspapers and media coverage that surrounded the awards dinner. We plan to expand *Health Research Week* activities in 2006.

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Achievement Awards 2005

Lorne Babiuk – *Biomedical*

Jay Kalra – *Clinical*

Jim Dosman – *Socio-health*

Report of Management

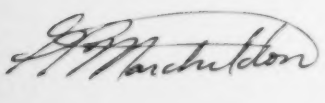
Management is responsible for the integrity of the financial information reported by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation. Fulfilling this responsibility requires the preparation and presentation of financial statements and other financial information in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles that are consistently applied, with any exceptions specifically described in the financial statements.

The accounting system used by the Foundation includes an appropriate system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that:

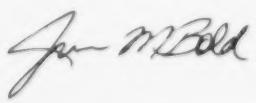
- transactions are authorized;
- the assets of the Foundation are protected from loss and unauthorized use; and
- the accounts are properly kept and financial reports are properly monitored to ensure reliable information is provided for preparation of financial statements and other financial information.

To ensure management meets its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control, board members of the Foundation discuss audit and financial reporting matters with representatives of management at regular meetings. Foundation board members have also reviewed and approved the financial statements with representatives of management.

The Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan has audited the Foundation's statement of financial position, statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and statement of cash flows. His responsibility is to express an opinion on the fairness of management's financial statements. The Auditor's report outlines the scope of his audit and his opinion.



Gregory P. Marchildon, PhD
Chair



June M. Bold, MSc
Chief Executive Officer

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
April 28, 2006

Financials

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. The Foundation's management is responsible for preparing these financial statements for Treasury Board's approval. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Regina, Saskatchewan
April 28, 2006

Fred Wendel, CMA, CA
Provincial Auditor

Statement 1

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at March 31

	2006			2005
	Operating Fund	RPP Fund	Total	Total
		(Note 8)		
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents (Schedule 1)	$ 453,947	$ -	$ 453,947	$ 17,602
Accrued interest receivable	-	-	-	8,338
Accounts receivable	6,732	-	6,732	7,113
Short-term investments (Schedule 1)	1,661,002	-	1,661,002	1,929,116
Prepaid expenses	4,956	-	4,956	1,916
	2,126,637	-	2,126,637	1,964,085
Long-term investments (Schedule 1)	2,379,619	1,348,280	3,727,899	4,593,055
Property, plant and equipment (Note 2(c) and 3)	60,221	-	60,221	59,950
Total assets	$ 4,566,477	$ 1,348,280	$ 5,914,757	$ 6,617,090
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 3,971	$ -	$ 3,971	$ 45,536
Grants payable	357,926	-	357,926	326,451
Total liabilities	361,897	-	361,897	371,987
Fund balances:				
Internally restricted (Schedule 2 and Note 8)	4,084,741	1,176,569	5,261,310	4,580,197
Unrestricted	119,839	171,711	291,550	1,664,906
Fund balances (Statement 2)	4,204,580	1,348,280	5,552,860	6,245,103
Commitments (Note 4)				
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 4,566,477	$ 1,348,280	$ 5,914,757	$ 6,617,090

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Year Ended March 31

	2006				2005
	Operating Fund		RPP		
	Budget	Actual	Fund	Total	Total
	(Note 11)		(Note 8)		
Revenue:					
General Revenue Fund					
Saskatchewan Health	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000	$ -	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000
Saskatchewan Learning	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000
Canadian Nurses Foundation	-	19,912	-	19,912	-
Interest	200,000	236,141	-	236,141	302,836
Recoveries	-	22,343	-	22,343	24,940
Miscellaneous	-	1,516	-	1,516	1,030
Total revenue	6,133,000	6,212,912	250,000	6,462,912	6,511,806
Expenses:					
Personnel awards (Note 2(b))	945,000	761,332	-	761,332	702,769
Research grants (Note 2(b))	1,435,529	1,410,406	935,404	2,345,810	2,226,505
SPHERU (Note 5 and 6)	525,000	465,143	-	465,143	305,000
Research centres (Note 5)	2,675,000	2,623,948	-	2,623,948	2,675,000
Partnerships (Note 7)	125,000	108,750	-	108,750	100,000
Wages and benefits	442,400	455,150	-	455,150	301,560
Administrative and operating expenses	402,520	351,807	-	351,807	301,414
Honoraria and expenses of the board and committees	72,765	43,215	-	43,215	50,757
Total expenses	6,623,214	6,219,751	935,404	7,155,155	6,663,005
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	$ (490,214)	(6,839)	(685,404)	(692,243)	(151,199)
Fund balances, beginning of year		4,911,419	1,333,684	6,245,103	6,396,302
Transfers between funds (Note 8)		(700,000)	700,000	-	-
Fund balances, end of year (Statement 1)		$ 4,204,580	$ 1,348,280	$ 5,552,860	$ 6,245,103

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 3

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended March 31

	2006			2005
	Operating Fund	RPP Fund	Total	Total
		(Note 8)		
Operating activities:				
Cash provided by:				
General Revenue Fund				
Saskatchewan Health	$ 5,933,000	$ -	$ 5,933,000	$ 5,933,000
Saskatchewan Learning	-	250,000	250,000	250,000
Other receipts	34,131	-	34,131	8,449
Interest	556	-	556	8
	5,967,687	250,000	6,217,687	6,191,457
Cash used for:				
Wages and benefits	453,960	-	453,960	302,591
Grant and award payments	5,316,506	935,404	6,251,910	6,065,379
Supplies and other	386,170	-	386,170	332,648
	6,156,636	935,404	7,092,040	6,700,618
Total operating activities	(188,949)	(685,404)	(874,353)	(509,161)
Investing activities:				
Decrease (increase) in investments	1,391,788	(14,596)	1,377,192	392,518
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(66,494)	-	(66,494)	(13,707)
Total investing activities	1,325,294	(14,596)	1,310,698	378,811
Net increase (decrease) in cash	1,136,345	(700,000)	436,345	(130,350)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	17,602	-	17,602	147,952
Transfers between funds (Note 8)	(700,000)	700,000	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 453,947	$ -	$ 453,947	$ 17,602

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Schedule 1

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
As at March 31, 2006

	MATURITY DATE	CARRYING VALUE	EFFECTIVE RATE
Cash and cash equivalents:			
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce		1,335	
Manulife Bank Investment Savings Account		452,612	3.25%
		453,947	
Short-term investments:			
Province of Nova Scotia	1-Jun-2006	248,396	4.11%
Province of Ontario	8-Sep-2006	393,294	2.53%
Government of Canada Strip Bond	1-Dec-2006	248,777	4.16%
Province of Manitoba	5-Mar-2007	520,981	5.56%
Province of Ontario	8-Mar-2007	249,554	4.24%
		1,661,002	
Long-term investments:			
Province of Newfoundland	17-Apr-2007	284,641	4.35%
Province of New Brunswick	15-Jun-2007	395,007	2.90%
Province of Ontario	12-Sep-2007	284,858	4.35%
Government of Canada Strip Bond	1-Dec-2007	285,761	4.43%
Province of British Columbia	9-Jun-2008	296,822	4.59%
Province of Newfoundland	17-Apr-2009	453,203	4.12%
Province of Ontario	19-Nov-2009	499,911	4.06%
Province of Saskatchewan	18-Jan-2010	205,747	4.38%
Ontario Hydro	11-Apr-2010	206,403	4.47%
Province of Saskatchewan	10-Apr-2009	205,625	3.25%
Province of British Columbia	23-Aug-2010	203,266	3.57%
Province of Ontario	2-Jun-2011	206,655	3.69%
Province of Manitoba Allocation Notes	27-Sep-2013	200,000	
		3,727,899	
		$ 5,842,848	

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Schedule 2

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION
SCHEDULE OF INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS
As at March 31, 2006

The Foundation's financial commitments at March 31, 2006 were as follows:

YEAR	RESEARCH GRANTS (Note 2(b))	SPHERU (Note 6)	PARTNERSHIPS (Note 7)	RPP (Note 8)	TOTAL
2007	$ 1,349,858	$ 481,716	$ 135,000	$ 700,000	$ 2,666,574
2008	361,917	-	135,000	700,000	1,196,917
2009	100,000	-	60,000	-	160,000
2010	-	-	35,000	-	35,000
2011	-	-	26,250	-	26,250
	$ 1,811,775	$ 481,716	$ 391,250	$ 1,400,000	$ 4,084,741

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2006

1. Establishment of the Foundation

On January 31, 2003, *The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act* (S.S. 2002, c.S-21.1) came into force establishing the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation is responsible for organizing, managing and allocating most provincial health research funding in Saskatchewan and for ensuring that supported research fits with the Province's health research priorities and leads to benefits for health and the health system in Saskatchewan. The Foundation is the lead agency on implementing the provincial *Health Research Strategy*.

2. Accounting Policies

The Foundation maintains its accounts using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles including the following significant accounting policies:

a) Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Foundation are maintained in accordance with the principles of restricted fund accounting for contributions. For financial reporting purposes, accounts with similar characteristics have been combined into the following funds:

i) Operating Fund

The Operating Fund reflects the operations of the Foundation, including facilitating health research in the province and disseminating results of funded research. Operations focus largely on implementing the *Health Research Strategy*, a long-term provincial plan for focusing and strengthening health research. Revenue consists of provincial funds, interest and miscellaneous revenue. Expenses consist of research grants and awards, *Health Research Strategy* implementation projects, administrative costs, and core support for research centres (see note 5).

ii) Restricted Fund – Saskatchewan – Canadian Institutes of Health Research Regional Partnership Program (RPP)

The RPP Fund reflects transfers from the Foundation and revenue from Saskatchewan Learning to provide matching funds for the national program. Expenses consist of research grants and awards (see note 8).

b) Research Grants

Annual Competitions

The Foundation holds funding competitions through which applications are adjudicated by experts based on excellence and relevance. Grants are awarded to successful applicants, subject to resource availability. Terms vary and are normally multi-year. The Foundation expenses the approved funds for each year of the grant, provided recipients meet eligibility criteria. Awarded amounts not paid or payable at year-end are recorded as commitments in Schedule 2.

The balance of funds advanced to administering institutions in excess of the current requirements of researchers is held in trust by those institutions until drawn down by the researchers. Funds not spent during the term of a research grant are treated as a recovery in the year that this is determined.

c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Normal maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Property, plant and equipment assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives (3 to 10 years).

d) Revenue

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the Operating Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

e) Investments

Investments are valued at the lower of amortized cost or net realizable value.

3. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2006			2005
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and Equipment	$ 87,818	$ 46,460	$ 41,358	$ 31,655
Leasehold Improvements	37,726	18,863	18,863	28,295
	$125,544	$ 65,323	$ 60,221	$ 59,950

4. Commitments

At March 31, 2006, the Foundation had the following lease commitments:

	2007	2008
Office rent lease	$ 66,504	$ 30,481
Photocopier lease	588	—
	$ 67,092	$ 30,481

5. Core-Funded Research Centres

The Foundation provides core funding to five research centres, carrying on commitments transferred from Saskatchewan Health and the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission. Funding amounts and terms vary, as listed below. The Foundation has accountability agreements with each centre, including a requirement for reporting on funds spent, research accomplishments, and future plans. Funding beyond the listed term will depend on success in the Foundation's new Health Research Teams Grant Competition.

Research Centre	Annual $	Current Term
Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan	525,000	97-98 to 07-08
Cancer Research Unit, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	563,000	03-04 to 06-07
Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada	500,000	03-04 to 08-09
Institute of Agricultural, Rural and Environmental Health, Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan	250,000	03-04 to 06-07
Neuropsychiatry Research Unit (including Applied Research Unit), Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan	1,262,000	03-04 to 06-07

6. Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU)

In February 2006, SPHERU's governance structure changed from an incorporated non-profit organization to a university-based centre that operates within the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. This change required new SPHERU accountability agreements between each university and the Foundation. Previously, the Foundation disbursed SPHERU payments based on SPHERU-board approved budgets and normally carried a SPHERU balance for distribution in future years. Under the new agreements, the Foundation will split the full annual grant amount equally between the two universities and will not carry a SPHERU balance at year-end. As 2005-06 was a transition year, the Foundation carried a SPHERU balance at March 31, 2006 (which is disclosed in Schedule 2).

7. Partnerships

Periodically, the Foundation enters into funding partnerships, often spanning more than one year, to help achieve its goals and objectives. Current partnerships are described below, with corresponding future funding commitments listed in Schedule 2.

a) University Co-ordinator of Health Research (UCHR), University of Saskatchewan

The Foundation contributes $100,000 per year to support a full-time University Co-ordinator of Health Research position at the University of Saskatchewan. The current three-year agreement renews the original 1999 agreement and expires June 30, 2008. The purpose of the position is to help the Foundation and its university partners build health research capacity and increase success rates of Saskatchewan researchers in federal research competitions.

b) Co-ordinated Health Research Function, University of Regina

The Foundation contributes $35,000 per year to support a 25% time Health Research Leader and a 50% time Health Research Facilitator at the University of Regina. This five-year agreement which came into effect January 1, 2006 expires on December 31, 2010. The purpose is to build and expand health research capacity and activity at the University of Regina.

8. Saskatchewan – Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Regional Partnership Program (RPP) Fund

In 1999-2000, the provincial government agreed to provide matching funds for Saskatchewan researchers and research projects in conjunction with CIHR's Regional Partnership Program. This agreement ended March 31, 2004. CIHR extended the program and the Foundation continues to match funds. Current year funding is provided by Saskatchewan Learning (Innovation and Science Fund) and the Foundation's commitment of $700,000. The Foundation manages and disburses these funds, with advice from a multi-stakeholder advisory committee. Unused funding is retained by the Foundation for distribution in future years. The RPP committee has approved grants for payment in 2006-07 of $727,439, 2007-08 of $275,130, 2008-09 of $100,875, 2009-10 of $52,500 and 2010-11 of $20,625.

9. Related Party Transactions

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown Corporations, departments, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Foundation by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan, and non-Crown corporations and enterprises subject to joint control or significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as "related parties").

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at the standard rates charged by those organizations and are settled on normal trade terms. These transactions and amounts outstanding at year-end are as follows:

	2006	2005
Research grant, administrative and occupancy expenses:		
Capital Pension Plan - employee benefits	$ 20,032	$ 13,265
Heartland Health Region	—	10,000
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region	5,000	—
Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations	12,882	1,340
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	563,000	563,000
Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation	80,440	59,457
SaskTel	11,087	9,534
Saskatoon Health Region	5,240	—
University of Regina	886,529	218,225
University of Saskatchewan	4,661,542	4,596,848
Other	1,858	1,541
Accounts payable	1,370	39,867
Grants payable	357,926	326,451

The Foundation pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to or from them are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

10. Financial Instruments

The Foundation has the following financial instruments: accrued interest receivable, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable, and grants payable. The following paragraphs disclose the significant aspects of these financial instruments.

a) Significant terms and conditions

There are no significant terms and conditions associated with the financial instruments, other than investments, that may affect the amount, timing, and certainty of future cash flows. Significant terms and conditions for investments are described separately in these financial statements and the accompanying notes.

b) Interest rate risk

The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk when the value of its financial instruments fluctuates due to changes in market interest rates.

The Foundation's receivables and payables are non-interest bearing. Due to the short-term nature of these, as well as cash and short-term investments, interest rate risk is minimal.

As market interest rates fluctuate the market value of long-term investments moves in the opposite direction. This risk will affect the price the Foundation could sell the investments for prior to maturity.

c) Credit risk

The Foundation is exposed to credit risk from potential non-payment of accounts receivable or investment income and principal.

Most of the Foundation's receivables are from the provincial government; therefore the credit risk is minimal.

The Foundation's investments consist of provincial and federal government bonds, promissory notes, treasury bills and bankers acceptances with large Canadian banks. Therefore, credit risk for investments and related accrued interest receivable is minimal.

d) Fair value

For the following financial instruments, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to their immediate or short-term nature:

- Accrued interest receivable
- Accounts receivable
- Short-term investments
- Accounts payable
- Grants payable

The fair value of long-term investments is $3,686,646 (2005 - $4,627,271). The fair value is considered to approximate quoted market values.

11. Budget

The operating budget was approved by the Foundation's Board on April 8, 2005.

12. Pension Plan

The Foundation is a participating employer in the Capital Pension Plan, a defined contribution pension plan. Eligible employees make monthly contributions of 5.5% of gross salary, which are matched by the Foundation. During the year, the Foundation's total contributions were $20,032 (2005 - $13,265).

Saskatchewan
Health Research
FOUNDATION

253-111 Research Drive Atrium Building, Innovation Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 3R2 Canada
Phone: 306-975-1680 Fax: 306-975-1688 Web site: www.shrf.ca

PAYEE LIST

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2005 – MARCH 31, 2006

Personal Services

Listed are individuals who received payments for salaries, wages, honoraria, etc. which total $2,500 or more.

Bold, June	$103,091
Briggs, Alexa	12,918
Disano, Jason	42,523
Ebbesen, Lori	62,275
Gough, Rachel	8,092
Nastiuk, Lynn	29,826
Wailing, Sherry	40,795
Winkel, James	51,554
Ziegler, Valerie	39,155
Payees under $2,500	7,043
	$397,272

Travel

All	$ 75,892

Transfers

Listed by program, are transfers that are committed to institutions to administer SHRF grants.

Fellowships (Postdoctoral and Clinical Research)

• University of Saskatchewan	$ 761,332

Biomedical Establishment and Equipment Grants

• University of Regina	$ 40,000
• University of Saskatchewan	535,493
	$ 575,493

Socio-Health Establishment and Equipment Grants	
• University of Regina	$ 89,967
• University of Saskatchewan	319,863
	$ 409,830
Partnership Grants	
• University of Saskatchewan, CLS	$ 100,000
• University of Saskatchewan	45,072
	$ 145,072
Research Group Facilitation Grants	
• University of Saskatchewan	$ 189,982
Research Connections Grants	
• Ag West Bio Inc	$ 5,000
• Canadian Federation of Biological Societies	5,000
• Genome Prairie	5,000
• Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Center	2,500
• Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association	1,000
• University of Regina	1,500
• University of Saskatchewan	32,600
	$ 52,600
Strategic Priorities Grants	
• University of Saskatchewan	$ 5,000
SEARCH	
• Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region	$ 5,000
• Saskatoon Health Region	5,000
	$ 10,000
SPHERU Grants	
• University of Regina	$ 257,803
• University of Saskatchewan	207,340
	$ 465,143
RPP Grants	
• University of Regina	$ 111,026
• University of Saskatchewan	824,378
	$ 935,404

Centres Grants	
• CCARH	$ 48,948
• IPHRC	125,000
• SCA	563,000
• University of Regina, IPHRC	375,000
• University of Saskatchewan, IAREH	250,000
• University of Saskatchewan, NRU	1,262,000
	$2,623,948

Co-ordinated Health Research Function	
• University of Regina	$ 8,750
• University of Saskatchewan	100,000
	$ 108,750

Supplier Payments

Listed are payees who received $20,000 or more for the provision of goods and services, including office supplies, communications, contracts, and equipment.

adxstudio Inc	$ 28,005
Capital Pension Plan	20,032
SOCO	80,440
Synaptix	24,852
Payees under $20,000	246,108
	$ 399,437

Saskatchewan
Health Research
FOUNDATION

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

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